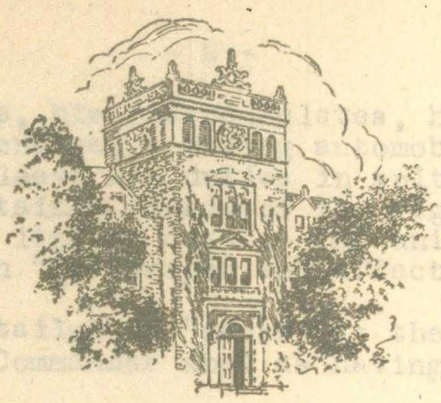
To the

FRONT



from

MUHLENBERG

Number 92
July 25, 1946

Dear Mules:

Summer with its heat, showers, freak cloudbursts, midget auto races, golf tournaments, and all other accessories is in full bloom in Allentown and vicinity and Muhlenberg is moving right along with the trend. And even though this morning is rather cloudy and the humidity is trying for a new high, here is another edition of the Service Letter for YOU and YOU and YOU. Thanks a million for your letters in response to my last communication to you. We got a line on several men who have been discharged and who never informed us of the fact, together with news from some who apparently have had "broken arms" for quite some months. It really is good to hear from YOU and we do appreciate your letters. Keep them coming so I can relay the news to you.

I know that most of you are familiar with a well known campus figure for the past two years--RUSTY. Well, Rusty has finally been discharged - and the story in the Call is so good that I want to reproduce it here.

"Last member of the Navy units that have been stationed at Muhlenberg to become a civilian with the decommissioning of the training center on Monday was Rusty, the Chesapeake Bay retriever whose loyalty to the Marines was tempered only by his devotion to the men who wore the blue and white of the Navy.

With a service record that covers a longer span on the campus than any other ex-Bluejacket or Leatherneck, Rusty received his honorable discharge yesterday at the hands of Lieutenant Commander Theodore T. Abel and was granted immediate admission to the civilian ranks by President Levering Tyson.

The dog, listed in his official Marine Corp's service record as "Rusty Gizmo", was presented to the men of the training unit on May 25, 1944, when he was one month old, by Mrs. John Henry Leh. The Marines immediately signed him up "for the duration" and his record indicates that he received his oath from Captain Michael Scelsi, commanding officer of the Marine detachment that was on the campus during the first year and a half of the V-12 training program. When the Marines left he was turned over to the Bluejackets who continued in training and he has been the mascot of each succeeding unit.

During his more than two years on the campus, he mastered the Marine Corps manual of arms and his customary place was at the head of the unit, whether it was marching for a formal review or in a practice drill. Even the presence of a three-star admiral failed to confine him to his quarters.

His service record indicates that he was first at other places too, reporting that his job in which he "exercised the greatest authority and leadership" was his "ability to get to the front of the chow line."

Although he never went to high school or attended any college classes, Rusty stems from a line of champions and boasts a pedigree nearly as long as the distinguished trail blazed by the Marines. Nevertheless, he signed all his approval papers with a simple "X".

In the service, his record relates, he suffered injuries on 10 June, 1946 when he "engaged a moving automobile" but "rallied valiantly, refusing to leave his duties in spite of his disabilities". On 21 June 1946 he "sustained wounds of the right forepaw on broken Coca-Cola bottle in the line of duty". The unit long ago awarded him a letter of commendation "for proper and affectionate deportment".

Officially detailed as "sentry at the East Hall Barracks" he is rated by Lieutenant Commander Abel as having been "efficient".

Various command officers have rated him "satisfactory" and "4.0" in scouting and patrolling, first aid, sentinel duty, close order drill, combat signaling, combat principles, marching and interior guard duty. He was given a 3.9 rating for military courtesy.

Relieved of duty and given an honorable discharge without terminal leave - Rusty began making friends with the civilian students, who long have eyed him enviously. At last reports the basketball team was reported to be scouting the possibility of signing him as their mascot."

We recently unveiled the permanent bronze statue of Major General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, which as you know, is located on the front campus in front of the Library. The Brotherhood of the Lutheran Ministerium held the service in the Chapel last Sunday and Dr. Paul C. Empie '29, Colonel H. Torrey Walker, Dr. E.E. Fischer '20, Rev. Warren C. Heinley '28, Dr. Robert C. Horn '00 and William Frick took part in the ceremonies. Known to most of you as "Plaster Pete", the statue was erected in 1942 and was made of plaster for war shortages had made impossible the erection of a permanent bronze tribute to the man who uttered the famous words "There is a time to fight".

The Navy has officially lowered the flag on the campus, marking the end of their stay of more than four years. Altogether, the College trained more than 2,100 men and of this number, only eight failed to gain their commissions when they went on to Officer Training Schools. This record has not been surpassed by any other institution who had V-12 units and speaks well for the work of the College during the difficult war years.

RAY K. HEIST '33 has been discharged from the Navy after four years of service. Ray is employed by Liberty Mutual in New York and at present is living in Fairlawn, N.J.

LIEUT. (jg) ROBERT NEUMEYER '42 has high hopes of becoming a civilian soon. His ship is in the process of decommissioning and Bob should be back in Allentown in August.

LIEUT. (jg) PAUL E. MORENTZ '43 has been a faithful correspondent since the "Trembling T" at last took off on her voyage to the "mys-s-sterious Orient". Paul reports a fine voyage punctuated by various incidents such as floating mines, a bout with heat exhaustion, experiences in Shanghai, and various other details to keep life from becoming too dull.

HERB DOWD '43 is in the midst of another very interesting experience. He has sailed as an observer for the State Department on the Greek Election Mission. The job consists of helping to check the registration lists as a member of the Allied Mission for Observation of the Greek Elections. Herb expects to return to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in October.

March 1, 1946 was the date for the retirement of BRIGADIER GENERAL STEWART E. REIMEL '17. At present he is the Secretary for the Committee on International Relations of the Engineers Joint Council with headquarters in New York City.

This seems to be it, gang, so I'll close for another issue with the hope that your letters will keep coming and that soon, all of you will be home for good. Keep your chin up, and that day will soon be here. I'll be seeing you in another two weeks.

Cordially,

John

John H. Wagner
Alumni Secretary